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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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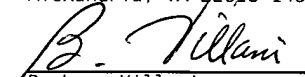
Applicant(s): O. NISHIMURA et al

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.